

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PTD/JPS/2696PC		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/GB2004/004549		International filing date (day/month/year) 28.10.2004		Priority date (day/month/year) 28.10.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61M3/02, A61M1/00, A61M27/00, A61F13/00				
Applicant SMITH & NEPHEW PLC ET AL.				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
Date of submission of the demand 21.04.2005		Date of completion of this report 20.12.2005		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized Officer Lakkis, A Telephone No. +31 70 340-4136 		

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004549

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):*

Description, Pages

1-56 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004549

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:
- ☐ the entire international application,
 - ☒ claims Nos. 10
- because:
- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):
 - ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
 - ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
 - ☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 10
 - ☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:
 - the written form ☐ has not been furnished
 - ☐ does not comply with the standard
 - the computer readable form ☐ has not been furnished
 - ☐ does not comply with the standard
 - ☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
 - ☐ See separate sheet for further details

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004549

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item III.

Rules 39.1(iv) and 67.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy

Re Item V.

- 1 The following documents are referred to in this communication:
- D1 : FR 1 163 907 A (WALTER PAUL) 2 October 1958 (1958-10-02)
 - D2 : DE 198 44 355 A1 (SACHSE, RAINER E) 6 April 2000 (2000-04-06)
 - D3 : WO 00/07653 A (HILL-ROM, INC; HENLEY, ALAN, WAYNE; MOSES, LEIGH, MARIE; SANDERSON, RO) 17 February 2000 (2000-02-17)
 - D4 : WO 02/092783 A (CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER CORPORATION) 21 November 2002 (2002-11-21)

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Note that the term "materials that are deleterious to wound healing (from wound exudate)" is very broad so that any part of the wound exudate or the totality of it can be considered to fall under this term.

Document D1 (page 1, figures) discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) all the technical features of claim 1:

An apparatus for cleansing wounds, comprising a conformable wound dressing having a backing layer (4, 9) and further comprises cleansing means (3) for selectively removing materials that are deleterious to wound healing from wound exudate and a moving device (6, 10) for moving fluid (air and/or wound secretions) within the cleansing means.

Note that D2 (cleansing means 3), D3 (cleansing means 110) and D4 (cleansing means 110), for complete citations see the search report, also disclose all technical features of claim 1.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-9

Dependent claims 2-9 such as drafted (see clarity issues under VIII) do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty (Article 33(2) PCT). See the documents and passages cited in the search report.

Re Item VI

Certain documents cited

The priority documents pertaining to the present application were not available at the time of establishing this opinion. Hence, it is based on the assumption that all claims enjoy priority rights from the filing date of the priority document. If it later turns out that this is not correct, document WO2004/037334 could become relevant.

Re Item VIII.

Clarity issues (Article 6 PCT):

Claim 1 contains an optional feature (bleed means) which has no limiting effect on the scope of the claim. The same applies to the optional features of claims 2, 3, 7 (optionally mixed with).

Some of the features in the apparatus claims 2 ("passes"), 3 ("is/are moved"), 4 and 5 ("is operated as") relate to a method of using the apparatus rather than clearly defining the apparatus in terms of its technical features. The intended limitations are therefore not clear from this claim, contrary to the requirements of Article 6 PCT. For the present preliminary examination they have been interpreted as "can pass, can be moved, can be operated", respectively.

**-INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
-REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
- (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/004549

Claims 4, 5: the term "the relevant fluid" is not properly defined.

Claim 9 contains a disclaimer ("is not an integer...") which renders it unclear.